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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems (SPS)

OVERVIEW

The Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems (SPS) project aims to expand access to and use of appropriate medicine, and contain the emergence and spread of anti-microbial resistance. USAID works with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to achieve these goals. Ultimately, this project will ensure that Afghan citizens have access to high-quality medications provided through efficient procurement and distribution networks. SPS builds on the work initiated under previous projects to strengthen the pharmaceutical management system in Afghanistan.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Improve the use of medicine:** Establish drug and therapeutics committees at the national and provincial levels and train MoPH and medical staff on rational medicine use (RMU) and standard treatment guidelines
- **Strengthened management of pharmaceutical services:** Provide technical assistance to the MoPH to improve coordination of pharmaceutical management and conduct training in stock management for staff at warehouses, hospitals, and health facilities
- **Pharmaceutical quality assurance system for Afghanistan:** Support the MoPH in the development of a comprehensive quality assurance strategy and task force, and conduct pharmaceutical quality assessments
- **Coordinate procurement and distribution system for donors:** Develop a framework governing procurement and distribution, and provide stock management training for Non Governmental Organizations implementing the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS)
- **Improve curriculum:** Work with the Kabul University Faculty of Pharmacy to include the rational use of medicines and anti-microbial resistance in its curriculum
- **Public awareness:** Designing health messages for radio and TV to raise awareness in the general public of anti-microbial resistance and improve rational medicine use
- **Improve regulation:** Strengthen regulatory environment for food and medicines safety

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established the National Drug and Therapeutic Committee (NDTC) and DTCs in 17 (six in Kabul, 11 in provinces) national and provincial hospitals
- Completed a study of medicine use and prescribing practices and designed training packages for physicians and pharmacists based on findings
- Developed training materials on RMU and dispensing practices to increase the knowledge of BPHS providers
- Prepared Standard Treatment Guidelines for BPHS facilities
- Implemented a medicine quality study and rapid quality assurance assessment to improve pharmaceutical quality assurance policies and provide options to strengthen the regulatory environment for drug and food safety
- Developed the organizational and governance framework for a Coordinated Procurement and Distribution System
- Developed the Pharmaceutical Registration Information System database
- Organized a forum on collecting, monitoring, researching, assessing and evaluating information from healthcare providers and patients on the adverse effects of medications to build national consensus on reporting and managing of adverse drug reactions
- Refurbished the MoPH Central Medical Store to promote good storage practices